

OPT-26

(EGYPT)

CAIRO--THE NEWSPAPER AL AHRAS SAID TODAY U.S. EMBASSY POLITICAL ATTACHE BRUCE ODELL, WHO LEFT FOR WASHINGTON YESTERDAY AFTER THE EGYPTIANS DEMANDED HIM A CIA AGENT, WOULD NEVER RETURN HERE.

THE NEWSPAPER, IN A STATEMENT APPARENTLY OFFICIALLY INSPIRED, SAID ODELL'S WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN WOULD ALSO LEAVE SOON.

AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN, ASKED ABOUT THE AL AHRAS REPORT, SAID HE HAD "NO INFORMATION" ON WHETHER ODELL WAS RETURNING. HE SAID THE U.S.A. HAS NOT OFFICIALLY DECLARED ODELL PERSONA NON GRATA.

AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN ODELL LEFT YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD GONE "FOR CONSULTATIONS."

7/26--TDIC49AED

CPYRGHT